

overlapping state forming a continuous loop in which a lure is engagable to the coupler by forcing the hooks apart and threading one of the hooks into and through a hook eye of the lure.

Please add the following claims, which are directed to the embodiment depicted in FIGS. 5, 5A and 6:

37. Apparatus for receiving and securing an end segment of a line, the end segment having an outer diameter, the apparatus comprising a receptacle including a chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter that is substantially equal to the outer diameter of the end segment and extensions extending into the chamber for impinging against the end segment, and a coupler attached to the receptacle that is capable of engaging and supporting a lure, the coupler comprising a pair of opposing plates biased together and prongs carried by and between the plates capable of securing a hook eye of a lure.

38. Apparatus of claim 37, the chamber having a length, wherein the extensions are positioned at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the chamber.

39. Apparatus of claim 37, wherein the extensions are directed away from an open end of the receptacle which leads to the chamber.

Clean copy of amended paragraphs from page 15, line 5, to page 16, line 14:

Regarding Fig. 3A, receptacle 25 is designed to receive and secure an end segment 42A of a line 42. In this example, line 42 is a fishing line such as a tippet or leader formed of nylon monofilament, and end segment 42A is a length of line 42 leading to its free end 42B. Inner diameter D of chamber 33 is substantially equal to the outer diameter of end segment 42A. To install connector 20, connector 20 is held and end 42B forced into chamber 33 through end 32. Because teeth 35 are slanted or directed away from open end 32, flexible and resilient, chamber 33 readily accepts end segment 42A without considerable effort or difficulty. When installed in chamber 33, it is preferred that free end 42B reside against or immediately adjacent end 31 of receptacle 25.

Because inner diameter D of chamber is substantially constant from end 32 to end 31 of receptacle 25 and substantially equal to the outer diameter of end segment 42B, the fit of end segment 42A against inner surface 34 of chamber 33 is tight, snug or close. This forces teeth 35 to impinge against end segment 42A. In Fig. 3A, an exaggerated space is shown between end segment 42A and inner surface 34 of chamber 33 for ease of illustration. The slanted orientation of teeth 35 away from end 32, the snug fit of end segment 42A in chamber 33 and the impingement of teeth 35 against end segment 42A cooperate to grippingly seize or secure end segment 42A in place, and inhibits end segment 42A from dislodging from chamber 33 through open end 32 while under a pulling force. Although teeth 35 are flexible and resilient, the snug fit between inner surface 34 and end segment 42A prevents teeth 35 from buckling under force and compels them to impinge against end segment 42A, which provides a surprisingly strong and highly effective coupling.

Clean copy of amended claim 1 and added claims 37-39:

1. Apparatus for receiving and securing an end segment of a line, the end segment having an outer diameter, the apparatus comprising a receptacle including a chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter that is substantially equal to the outer diameter of the end segment and extensions extending into the chamber for impinging against the end segment, and a coupler attached to the receptacle that is capable of engaging and supporting a lure, the coupler comprising a pair of resilient hooks disposed in an overlapping state forming a continuous loop in which a lure is engagable to the coupler by forcing the hooks apart and threading one of the hooks into and through a hook eye of the lure.

37. Apparatus for receiving and securing an end segment of a line, the end segment having an outer diameter, the apparatus comprising a receptacle including a chamber bound by a substantially continuous sidewall defining an inner diameter that is substantially equal to the outer diameter of the end segment and extensions extending into the chamber for impinging against the end segment, and a coupler attached to the receptacle that is capable of engaging and supporting a lure, the coupler comprising a pair of opposing plates biased together and prongs carried by and between the plates capable of securing a hook eye of a lure.

38. Apparatus of claim 37, the chamber having a length, wherein the extensions are positioned at spaced

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intervals along substantially the entire length of the chamber.

39. Apparatus of claim 37, wherein the extensions are directed away from an open end of the receptacle which leads to the chamber.